

Enterprise Program Management (EPM)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Enterprise Program Management?

Enterprise Program Management (EPM) is a structured process for identifying, governing, executing, and deploying key business initiatives within the Executive Branch of the State of Illinois. The primary focus of EPM is on Information Technology and Telecommunication initiatives (refer to the EPM Overview presentation for additional details).

How does EPM relate to the Enterprise Project Portfolio?

The Enterprise Project Portfolio is a database, contained within the EPM Portal application that contains key information about proposed initiatives and approved projects throughout their respective lifecycles. Portfolio Records are created during the Initiation phase and are maintained indefinitely, (currently all chartered projects are retained in the database).

How does EPM relate to Information Technology Governance?

Information Technology Governance (ITG) is an integral part of the overall EPM Framework. Once key business initiatives are identified by Executive Branch agencies, boards, and commissions they are reviewed by the ITG and Enterprise Architecture & Strategy (EA&S) teams. ITG and EA&S then work with these business units to identify the technology-related components, and assist them in defining the business and technical requirements as well as the deployment package (refer to the Governance page for additional details).

What Agencies, Boards and Commissions participate in this process?

- The Conceptualization phase of the EPM Framework is focused primarily on the (12) Consolidated and (3) Selected agencies as they collectively represent 90+% of the State's annual IT and Telecom spending. This provides sufficient data for Budget Planning and Forecasting activities.
- All Executive Branch agencies, boards, and commissions are required to participate in the ITG process, (see the Governance page for specific exceptions).
- The Project Management components of the EPM Framework (Planning, Execution, and Transition) only apply to CMS/BCCS managed projects. Although these components represent best practices, Agency managed projects are not required to comply with these standards.

What is the business value for the participating agencies?

- The Budget Planning and Forecasting activity helps to coordinate planning for the necessary resources and infrastructure capacity to accommodate approved business initiatives. It also helps to coordinate requisite enterprise and agency resources.
- The Governance activity helps to ensure alignment with the Enterprise Architecture and associated technology standards. It also helps to define viable, technology-enabled business solutions.
- The Project Management activity helps to ensure that commitments are captured, aligned, and managed via Project Milestones. The Project Status reports provide feedback to the participating agencies related to CMS/BCCS progress on assigned milestones.

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What are the roles of the participating agencies?

- [Agency Management](#) - The Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Information Officer, typically play a strong role in defining their agency's key business initiatives and associated budget as part of the annual Budget Planning and Forecasting activity.
- [Agency Portfolio Manager](#) - This role is responsible for coordinating their organization's project portfolio (database of proposed projects). They serve as the primary point of contact between their organization and the EPM office, by participating in the identification, processing and qualification of projects that support their respective agency.
- [Agency Project Management Office](#) - An agency PMO is responsible for coordinating the work of agency Project Managers with the EPM office, to effectively manage approved projects throughout their lifecycle.

What State organizations utilize the EPM Portal?

The EPM Portal is currently utilized by the Governor's Office, CMS Executive Management, BCCS Leadership, participating Agency Management, as well as both internal and external audit organizations. It is designed to be used as a collaborative tool to coordinate the efforts of internal State stakeholders.

What training or mentoring opportunities exist?

Training on the EPM Portal and associated agency roles has been conducted several times and is still available (by request). Starting in January 2009, the EPM office will also be conducting outreach activities for participating agencies. The outreach will include an Overview on the EPM Framework, including the Project Portfolio, Governance, and Project Management processes and capabilities.

Who can I contact for additional information?

The Enterprise Program Management (EPM) office is part of the CMS/BCCS organization. The primary contact is Michael E. Porter, EPM Executive, Michael.Porter@illinois.gov (see Contacts for additional contact information)